United Nations A/C.4/62/SR.26

General Assembly
Sixty-second session

Official Records

Distr.: General
19 September 2008

Original: English

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 26th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 11 August 2008, at 11 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Mohamad ..... (Sudan)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.15 a.m.

Agenda item 34: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*) (A/62/19 and A/C.4/62/L.20)

1. **The Chairman** recalled that the Committee had held a general debate on agenda item 34, entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects", during the main part of the General Assembly in November 2007. Furthermore, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had held its regular session in 2008 from 10 March to 4 April and again on 3 July. The report on the Special Committee's 2008 regular session had been adopted on 3 July and was contained in document A/62/19. He also drew attention to the draft resolutions submitted under the item, contained in document A/C.4/62/L.20.

2. **Mr. Normandin** (Canada), speaking on behalf of the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, introduced the report of that Committee contained in document A/62/19. During the first week of its work, the Special Committee had held a general debate and had listened to statements by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Officer-in-Charge of the Department of Field Support. At its closing meeting on 3 July, the Special Committee had been privileged to hear the farewell remarks of Mr. Guéhenno, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, as well as a statement by Ms. Malcorra, the Head of the Department of Field Support.

3. The membership of the Special Committee had increased in 2008 to 139 members, with 19 States and organizations participating in the session as observers.

4. The Working Group of the Special Committee had met from 12 March to 4 April 2008, and again on 3 July 2008, to finalize the work on the draft recommendations. The proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee, contained in paragraphs 15 to 199 of the report, covered the following areas: guiding principles, definitions and implementation of mandates; restructuring of peacekeeping; safety and security; conduct and discipline; strengthening operational capacity, including military capacities, United Nations police capacities, rapid deployment, integrated planning, mission leadership, strengthening United Nations Headquarters, and doctrine and terminology; strategies for complex peacekeeping operations, covering peacebuilding issues and the Peacebuilding Commission, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, security sector reform, rule of law, gender and peacekeeping, children and peacekeeping, HIV/AIDS and peacekeeping, and quick-impact projects; cooperation with troop-contributing countries; enhancement of African peacekeeping capabilities; cooperation with regional arrangements; best practices; training; personnel; and financial issues.

5. Lastly, in order to mark the sixtieth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping in 2008, the Special Committee had recommended to the General Assembly that it should hold a commemorative meeting at its sixty-third session and that it should adopt a declaration on that occasion.

6. Introducing draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.20, entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping in all its aspects", on behalf of the representatives of Argentina, Canada, Egypt, Japan, Nigeria and Poland, he noted that the draft resolution was based on those adopted in recent years. In accordance with the draft resolution, the General Assembly would endorse the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee contained in paragraphs 15 to 199 of its report and would urge Member States, the Secretariat and relevant organs of the United Nations to take all necessary steps to implement them.

Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.20: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping in all its aspects

7. **Mr. Zhang** (Secretary of the Committee) speaking with regard to the financial implications of the draft resolution, said that in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would endorse the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations contained in paragraphs 15 to 199 of its report (A/62/19).

8. In paragraph 73 of the report, the Special Committee recognized the need for the Chief of Staff of the Office of Military Affairs to be appointed at an appropriate grade to enable him or her to direct the work of the branch chiefs. That question had been addressed within the context of the budget of the

support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.

9. Some of the recommendations of the Special Committee would require further study and any budgetary implications would be addressed in the subsequent budget of the support account for peacekeeping operations and in individual peacekeeping mission budgets, as appropriate. Accordingly, the adoption of the draft resolution would not give rise to any financial implications at that time.

10. *Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.20 was adopted.*

Completion of the work of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) at the main part of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly

11. **The Chairman** declared that the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) had completed its work at the main part of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.